

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

PROPOSAL: Collaborative Solutions Corporation's Proposal to Develop a Residential Recovery Residence in Williamstown, VT

Thursday, August 3, 2006
4-6 p.m.
Pavilion Auditorium

Attendees:

- **Applicant:** Michael Hartman, Janice Guyette
- **Review Panel:** Linda Corey, Rep. Phil Winters, Sarah Clark, Marty Roberts, Jackie Leman, Clare Munat
- **VDH Staff:** Dawn Philibert, Beth Tanzman, Acting Commissioner of Health Sharon Moffatt
- **Audience:** Kathie Bosko, Peter Holmberg, Laurel Pierce, Anne Donahue, Jerry Himmelstein, Bob Bick, Floyd Nease, Michael Curtis, Paul Dupre, Xenia Willimas, Morgan Brown, Michael Sabourin, Zachery Hughes

Agenda: See attached

Welcome and Overview of Hearing process: Dawn Philibert introduced herself as Moderator and Introduced the Applicant, the Review Panel Members, Acting Commissioner Sharon Moffatt and Futures Project Director Beth Tanzman. She reviewed the process for the hearing, and announced a correction to the title of the applicant. The correct title of the applicant is "Collaborative Solutions Corporation" rather than "Creative Solutions Corporation" as stated on the agenda.

Applicant Presentation: Michael Hartman presented an overview of the proposed project with a Power Point slide show. He presented the proposed projects in the context of the Futures Project and of a recovery-oriented model of care.

Review Panel Discussion with Applicant: Panelists were invited to ask questions of the applicant. The following questions or issues were raised. The italics represents the response given by Michael Hartman

- Egress from second floor and accessibility to second floor via elevator. *Cost of elevator was prohibitive. There are 2 handicapped accessible bedrooms and baths on first floor. There are fire escapes upstairs.*
- Will program have standing or advisory committee? *There is a proposed board, but the details of an advisory committee have not yet been worked out. The organization applying is a consortium of DA's.*
- What will be the tax implications for Williamstown when the 10 year lease is up? Will this program become a non-profit service?
- With all the property, what is the likelihood for growth? The town is not welcoming this program with open arms, but it is willing to give it a try. There are concerns that, if it is an effective program, there will be an attempt to expand it to many more beds. *There are no such plans at this time. It is difficult to make promises about what will transpire in 10 years.*
- Will the VSH costs for staff overtime be reduced as VSH residents are transferred to Second Spring? *It is hoped that this will be the first and most visible savings. Over time, additional savings will come from attrition of staff at VSH.*

- Why are renovation costs so high? *Because of the need for safety equipment such as special windows and sprinklers that are not able to be used for self-harm*
- If the Commissioner approves, when might the program open and how many people are ready to go? *Most likely in November, and there are currently 8 or 9 VSH patients who might be ready to transition in 30-45 days.*
- Would any residents come from VSH units other than Brooks Rehab? *Although most will come from Brooks Rehab initially, over time we expect to be able to move some individuals directly from other VSH units, thereby bypassing Brooks Rehab.*
- What will be the legal status of people who are admitted? *Some ONH, some PPV.*
- What are the next 5 steps to implementing this program? *Developer purchases the building, contractors renovate for 90 days, staff are hired and trained, continuous communication with VSH to identify prospective residents.*

Public Comments: The following individuals offered public comment regarding the following issues:

- Anne Donahue: Expressed strong support with many caveats, the main one being the concern about whether or not the applicant (CSC) is a Designated Agency and, therefore, excluded from CON. Rep. Donahue's written comments are attached.
- Xenia Williams: Support for project. VSH restricts people too much and residents do not learn life skills. This will also provide jobs for Williamstown residents.
- Morgan Brown: Requested extension of public comment period by 7-14 days. Emphasized recovery model and asked that Involuntary Medication/Act 114 not be practiced in any CRR. Encouraged the involvement of NAMI and VPS as well as "regular people" to "just be there".
- Michael Sabourin: Expressed concerns about egress in case of fire and to allow access to outside without compromising security. What about safety in bathrooms? Commented on need to consider majority of consumers governing project. Asked about how recreation will be provided (like VSH canteen, pool table, etc.), and what will happen when people's length of stay exceeds 18 months. Asked about Act 114 and what will happen if people leave voluntarily and decide they want to return. Asked when program will be open to the public to divert folks from VSH.
- Zachery Hughes: Expressed disappointment that Greensboro and Vergennes failed. Urged the embracement of change and timely implementation of this project.
- Linda Corey: Spoke as VPS rep. Talked of need for alternatives to VSH such as the successful Safe Haven program. There are many ways to recover and proposed program may offer a new and needed option. Urged consideration of the proposed program.

The hearing ended at 6:15 p.m. At that time, the review panel and the public were thanked. The review panel then asked questions of the VSH Acting Commissioner and Beth Tanzman, futures Project Director. Following this discussion, the panel completed written recommendations and comments for the Commissioner.

